

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING AND NOTICE OF  
PUBLIC COMMENT FOR A WATER QUALITY STUDY (TMDL)  
FOR CUNNINGHAM CREEK AND ITS TRIBUTARIES**

COMMITTEE MEETING: A community meeting will be held Monday, February 29, 2016 at 6.30pm at the Fluvanna County Public Library at 214 Commons BLVD, Palmyra, VA 22963. This meeting will be open to the public and all are welcome. In the case of inclement weather, the meeting will be postponed until Monday, March 7, 2016 at 6.30pm. For more information, please contact Tara Sieber at [Tara.Sieber@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:Tara.Sieber@deq.virginia.gov) or 540.574.7870.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and its contractors, Virginia Tech's Biological Systems Engineering Department, will discuss population data for the development of a water quality study known as a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Cunningham Creek and its Tributaries. This is an opportunity for local residents to learn about the condition of these streams, share information about the area, and become involved in the process of local water quality improvement. A public comment period will follow the meetings (2/29/2016 – 3/28/2016).

MEETING DESCRIPTION: A public meeting will be held to introduce to the local community the water quality improvement process in Virginia, known as the TMDL Process, invite their participation and solicit their contributions, and review the next steps. Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: These streams do not host a healthy and diverse population of aquatic life, and subsequently was listed as impaired for the "General Benthic (Aquatic life)" water quality standards. In addition, the Middle Fork of Cunningham Creek has an excess of bacteria. The bacteria standard preserves the "Primary Contact (recreational or swimming)" designated use for Virginia waterways. Excessive bacteria levels may pose a threat to human health. This water quality study reports on the sources of bacterial contamination and recommends reductions to meet Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the impaired waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, bacterial levels need to be reduced to the TMDL amount. Virginia agencies are working to identify sources of bacterial and will determine the cause of the benthic impairments through a weight of evidence approach. Reductions and a TMDL for the cause of the impairment will be developed.

<b>Stream</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Impairment</b>
Cunningham Creek	Fluvanna County	Aquatic Life
Cunningham Creek – North Fork	Fluvanna County	Aquatic Life
Cunningham Creek – Middle Fork	Fluvanna County	Bacteria, Aquatic Life

HOW TO COMMENT AND PARTICIPATE: The meetings of the TMDL process are open to the public and all interested parties are welcome. Written comments will be accepted through March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments. For more information or to submit written comments, please contact:

**Tara Sieber**  
**DEQ- Valley Regional Office**  
**PO Box 3000**  
**Harrisonburg, VA 22801**  
**Telephone: (540) 574-7870**  
**Fax: (540) 574-7878**  
**E-mail: [tara.sieber@deg.virginia.gov](mailto:tara.sieber@deg.virginia.gov)**